GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1482
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2014
MINIMUM WAGES TO AGRICULTURAL WORKERS
Kaswan Shri Rahul;Rajesh Shri M. B.

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)whether instances of denial of minimum wages including unequal wages to women workers have been reported from various sectors including agricultural sector in the country;

(b)if so, the details of such cases reported particularly in the agricultural sector during the last three years and current year;

(c)the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the regulatory mechanism for effective enforcement of Minimum Wages Act, 1948;

(d)whether the Government proposes to enact a separate legislation for agriculture workers and if so, the details thereof; and

(e)whether the Government also proposes to take social security measures for agriculture workers with central funding and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR STEEL, MINES, LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a) & (b): Such incidents have not been reported in the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

(c): Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, in the Central Sphere, the enforcement is secured through the Inspecting Officers of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) under Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM), while the compliance in the State sphere is ensured through the State Enforcement Machinery.

(d): In the schedule of employment under the Minimum Wages Act, agriculture is covered.

(e): The Government enacted Unorganised Workers Social Security Act, 2008 with the objective to provide social security and welfare measures to the workers in the unorganised sector workers including agricultural workers in unorganised sector. As such, the agricultural workers are also eligible to take benefits available under the scheme framed under the Act.